departments and offices and several non-official gentlemen. Copies of the Administration Report for 1086 M. E., and of the Memoranda of Subjects, in English and Malayalam, were distributed among the Members.

The Dewan opened the Assembly with the following

ADDRESS.

GENTLEMEN,

It is my pleasant duty, under command of His Highness the Maharajah, to welcome you to the Eighth Session of the Assembly. Copies of the Administration Report for 1086—in English and in Malayalam—will, as usual, be placed in your hands. I trust that the report will enable you to see clearly how the administration was conducted during the year, and I also trust that the facts and figures given in the report will be useful to you in making your representations.

2. **Casualties.**—Among the high officers of the State, Mr. R. S. Lepper, the Professor of History and Economics in His Highness the Maharajah's College, went on leave in Chingam 1086, and subsequently retired. He was the first occupant of the Chair of History and Economics in the College. Widely read and highly cultured, Mr. Lepper was able, by his great zeal and earnestness, to create in the minds of his students a genuine love for the subjects he taught, and the high ideal of conduct he placed before them was calculated to raise the general tone of the College in which he served. In the Public Works Department, I grieve to record the deaths of Executive Engineers Messrs. S. Lysaught and V. Anantanarayana Iyer, both of them officers who, by their good work, had gained the confidence of their Chief Engineer as well as of the Government.

3. **Financial.**—The year 1086 was, on the whole, a prosperous one. The Revenue, which had been steadily rising for a series of years, again went up, and reached the high figure of Rs. 1,28,09,000. The Expenditure amounted to Rs. 1,18,62,000 ; the result was a Surplus of Rs. 9,47,000. Against this, however, had to be set off four items of Abnormal Losses, which were finally written off during the year, aggregating to Rs. 4,28,000. The Net Surplus was Rs. 5,19,000. The Government Balance went up by this amount, *i. e.*, from Rs. 67,46,000 to Rs. 72,65,000. For further details in regard to the transactions of the year, I would refer you to Chapter II of the report and also to the Appendices II to VI.

4. **Main Heads of Revenue.**—I shall now proceed to deal briefly with the main heads of revenue. Taking the "Land Revenue" first, the demand of the year (including the arrears of previous years) was Rs. 38,31,000, out of which the sum of Rs. 36,99,000 was collected, and Rs. 32,000 written off, the recoverable balance at the end of the year being Rs. 1,00,000. This is the lowest balance we have at any time had. The undoubtedly good collection of work of the year was achieved with very little of coercive action, for, though so many as 57,393 demand notices were issued, and though properties were distrained or attached in 956 cases, actual sales took place in only 77 cases. A great deal of attention was paid during the year to Land Records Maintenance work, the results achieved in the Padmanabhapuram and Trivandrum Divisions being good. The administration of the "Forest Revenue" showed satisfactory progress. The forests of the State have, for some years now,

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been steadily, though slowly, developing. They gave in 1086 a net revenue of Rs. 3,14,000, against Rs. 2,21,000 in 1085 and Rs. 1,67,000 in 1081. There is however one feature in the administration of the Forest Department which has been the cause of some anxiety, *viz.*, the gradual increase, in recent years, of the stocks of timber on hand. The stocks at the depots rose during the year 1086 from 2,55,300 cubic feet to 3,92,600 cubic feet, *i. e.*, by more than 53 per cent. This question (of the profitable disposal of the stocks of timber in the depots) has been engaging the consideration of the Government for some time, and the conclusion has been arrived at, that the export duty on timber seriously handicapped the sales of the department; and not only so, but that it also prejudiced the receipts of the Shencotta-Quilon Railway. The Government have therefore recently sanctioned—as a tentative measure for a period of five years— the complete abolition of the export duty on timber of all kinds. Under the head of "Salt", the policy of developing the manufacture of home salt and reducing the import of Bombay salt was continued; the consumption of the former rose by 47,200 maunds, while that of the latter fell by 37,200 maunds, the net increase in the consumption being 10,000 maunds, the net revenue rising from Rs. 9,74,000 to Rs. 10,27,000. In the administration of the "Abkari Revenue", the policy of extending the 'excise system' and of reducing the number of liquor shops was also continued; on the last day of the year, the 'excise system' prevailed over the whole State except in seven taluks of the Kottayam Division and one taluk of the Devicolam Division. The number of country liquor shops, which had fallen from 7,050 in 1083, to 6,537 in 1084, and again to 5,103 in 1085, fell still further, to 4,602 in 1086. The number of foreign liquor licenses also fell, from 92 to 69. There was no change in the administration of the "Opium and Ganja Revenue", but, in regard to ganja, the British Government recognised that we could claim a rebate of the major portion of the duty levied on the ganja purchased by us in the Madras Presidency. A sum of B. Rs. 7,500 was received from the Madras Government on account of the purchases of ganja made by the State during the year 1910—1911. The "Tobacco Revenue" recovered to a great extent from the set-back it had had in 1085 on account of the dislocation which had occurred in that year in the trade in Jaffna tobacco. Taking all branches of the "Excise Revenue" together, *viz.*, "Abkari", "Opium and Ganja" and "Tobacco", the net revenue rose from Rs. 21,63,000 in 1085 to Rs. 24,57,000 in 1086. In 1081 the net revenue was only Rs. 18,60,000. The increase of revenue has been due to the more scientific system introduced and the more rigorous administration of the department enforced in recent years and the consequent suppression of illicit practices. The facilities for *consumption* have in no way been increased. On the other hand, the number of country liquor shops was, as already stated, reduced during the year by 501, and the number of foreign liquor licenses also fell from 92 to 69. The main changes in the administration of the "Customs Revenue" were that a large number of articles—17 in all—was removed from the export list and the export duty on several other articles was also reduced. Rules were passed for regulating the free export of oil and punnac manufactured in Travancore out of copra imported from outside, and rules were also passed for the free re-export of goods once imported into, and for the re-import of goods once exported from, Travancore. I have referred elsewhere to the action taken by the Government—since the close of the year—in abolishing completely the export duty on all kinds of timber. The net revenue from "Customs" rose from Rs. 11,91,000 to Rs. 12,74,000. The net "Stamp Revenue" was Rs. 15,08,000, against Rs. 14,56,000 in the previous year.

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